

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 June 2005 (23.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/056382 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B63B 59/08**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/AU2004/001642

(22) International Filing Date:
26 November 2004 (26.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2003906833 9 December 2003 (09.12.2003) AU

(71) Applicants and

(72) Inventors: **JOHNSON, Keith** [AU/AU]; Commercial Diving Services Pty Ltd, Lot 2, Yallah Road, NSW 2530 (AU). **JOHNSON, Timothy** [AU/AU]; Commercial Diving Services Pty Ltd, Lot 2, Yallah Road, NSW 2530 (AU).

(74) Agent: **GRIFFITH HACK**; P.O. Box 4164, Sydney, NSW 2001 (AU).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

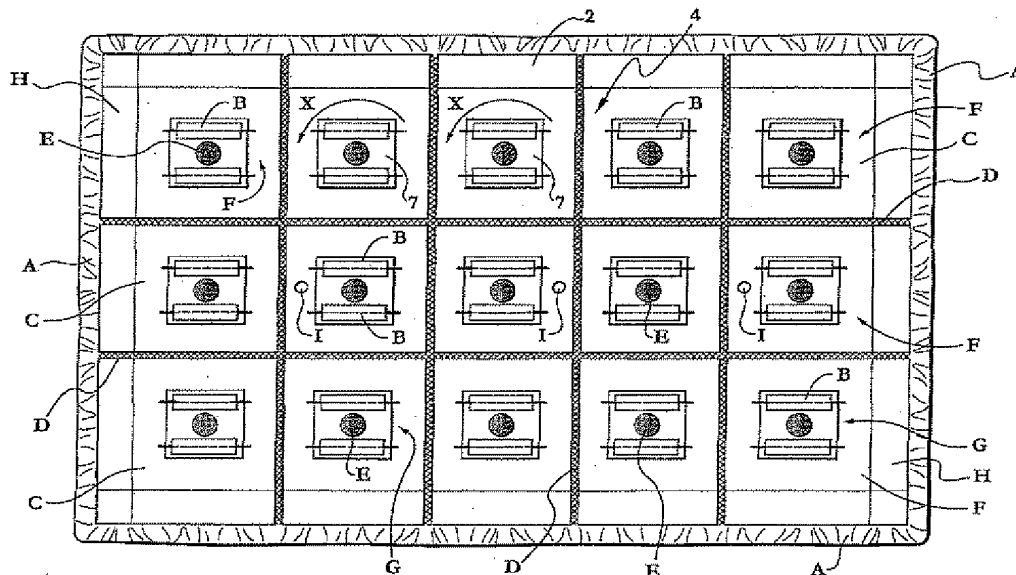
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING MARINE GROWTH ON A SURFACE



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for treating of marine growth on the surface, such as the hull of boats and ships. A confinement arrangement is used to confine a volume of heated fluid against the surface. The confinement arrangement is retained against the surface by maintenance and mounts rollers so that it can be moved over the surface to treat other parts of the surface. A heated fluid is provided to the confined volume from an external heater.

WO 2005/056382 A1

A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING MARINE GROWTH ON A SURFACE

Field of the Invention

5

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for treating marine growth on a surface and, particularly, but not exclusively, to a method and apparatus for treating marine growth on boats and ships
10 hulls and other water resident objects.

Background of the Invention

Marine growth on water resident objects such as
15 piers, waterways, oil rigs, water-going vessels, is a significant problem. In water-going vessels, for example, such as ships and boats, marine growth, such as algae, invertebrates (mussels, crustaceans) can cause significant cost, for operators of commercial shipping in particular.
20 Marine growth can result in greater wear and tear, significant increase in fuel consumption if not treated (10%-15%) and substantial maintenance costs.

Attempts have been made to address the marine growth
25 problem by using anti-fouling paints on surfaces, such as ships hulls, likely to be affected. Many anti-fouling paints, however, have been found to be damaging to the environment and many countries have banned or are considering implementing bans on the use of such anti-
30 fouling paints and even on entry of ships bearing anti-fouling paints into the country's waterways. Further, anti-fouling paints can be expensive to purchase and apply and require re-application periodically.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 2 -

Mechanical scrubbing techniques utilising brush cleaning machines or the like have been used to remove marine growth. Again, however, authorities often ban the use of such equipment due to the environmental effects of infestation of imported marine life in areas where the mechanical cleaning occurs. Further, where a surface has been treated with an expensive surface treatment such as an anti-fouling paint, intensive scrubbing techniques can result in damage to or removal of the surface treatment which can in turn be costly as well as potentially accentuating the environmental damage caused by the scrubbing.

It has been proposed to utilise heat treatment to treat some biological infestations of waterways and equipment used in waterways. US 5,389,266 (Clum et al) discloses an arrangement for treating zebra mussel infestation on the bottom surface of a waterway. A heat exchanger is mounted within a chamber which confines water to an area of the bottom surface of the waterway. The heat exchanger heats the water to kill the zebra mussel infestation. The chamber is then removed from the bottom surface and the process may be repeated at another portion of the bottom surface. This treatment requires the provision of a heat exchanger within the confining chamber.

US 5,389,266 also proposes treating the hulls of water-going vessels, such as ships, by enclosing a hull in its entirety within a chamber and heating the water within the enclosed chamber either by utilising a heat exchanger positioned in the chamber or by passing water from the chamber to an external heat exchanger, heating it and passing it back into the chamber. This method of treating ships hulls would be expensive and impractical for all

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 3 -

types of, vessels, particularly large ships. Further, the amount of energy that will be required to heat all the water in a chamber surrounding a large hull may be prohibitive.

5 Soviet patent publication no. SU 119-924A discloses a method of treating algae on a hull by, firstly, shrouding at least part of the hull in an insulating jacket and then heating the hull from a heat exchanger fitted to the inside of the hull. The heat from the hull is transferred
10 through to the algal growth. Once the algae has been killed, the insulating jacket may be removed.

 This arrangement requires the positioning of an insulating jacket about a hull, which may be difficult (particularly for large vessels). It also further
15 supposes that there is access to the inside of the hull to heat the inside of the hull so that the heat is transferred to the outside of the hull. It may be difficult in many vessels to obtain access to enough of the inside of the hull to allow effective treatment of the
20 algae.

Summary of the Invention

 In accordance with a first aspect, the present
25 invention provides a method of treating marine growth on a surface, including the steps of confining a volume adjacent a portion of the surface, introducing a heated fluid into the volume to heat the marine growth and moving the confined volume over the surface to treat other
30 portions of the surface.

 Note that the term "marine growth", as used in this document, covers any animal or vegetable matter that may grow on any water-going object and is not limited to

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 4 -

organisms which only occur in the sea. The term also includes organisms which occur in inland waterways and lakes.

In an embodiment, the heated fluid is at a
5 temperature sufficient to kill the marine growth.

In an embodiment, the fluid is heated remotely and passed into the volume from the remote location. Heated fluid may be exhausted from the confined volume as further heated fluid is introduced to the confined volume. The
10 heated fluid may be exhausted into the surrounding environment.

In an embodiment, a depth dimension of the confined volume is relatively small in magnitude. The heated fluid introduced into the confined volume may form a layer over
15 the portion of the surface, the layer being of relatively small thickness. Advantageously, this is energy efficient as it means that the amount of heated fluid required to treat the surface is minimised, and therefore the amount of energy utilised is minimised. The actual depth
20 dimension will in many cases depend upon the magnitude of the confined volume which may vary from application to application. In the embodiment, however, the depth dimension may be in a range of 2-50mm, in an alternative embodiment in a range of 2-15mm, in a further alternative
25 embodiment in a range of 2-10mm.

In an embodiment, the method includes a further step of retaining the confined volume adjacent the surface. The volume may be retained regardless of the orientation of the surface. If the surface is a ship's hull, for
30 example, the hull will usually be orientated facing sideways or downwards into the water and the confined volume is retained adjacent the hull. In an embodiment,

- 5 -

magnetism is used to retain the volume adjacent the surface.

In an embodiment, as the confined volume is moved over the surface it is conformed to the shape of the surface. If the shape is curved, for example, the confined volume conforms with the curved shape, so as to maintain the volume adjacent the surface.

In an embodiment, the method may be applied to treat a surface in situ. For example, if the surface is a ship's hull, then the method may be applied to treat the ship's hull below the water line.

In accordance with a second aspect, the present invention provides an apparatus for treating marine growth on a surface, including a confinement arrangement arranged to confine a volume adjacent a portion of the surface, the confinement arrangement being provided with an entry port arranged to enable introduction of a heated fluid to the volume, the confinement arrangement being movable over the surface to enable treatment of other portions of the surface.

In an embodiment, the confinement arrangement is provided with a retaining means which is arranged to retain the confinement arrangement proximate the surface so that the volume remains adjacent the surface. In one embodiment, the retaining means includes one or more magnets mounted to the confinement arrangement.

In an embodiment, an exhaust means enables heated fluid that has been introduced into the volume to be exhausted from the volume. The exhaust means may exhaust the heated fluid into the surrounding environment. In an embodiment, the exhaust means is a flexible seal which borders the confinement arrangement.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 6 -

In an embodiment, the confinement arrangement is in the form of a cover having a back and sides and an open face, between them forming a cavity. The open face is arranged to be positioned against the surface to be treated, edges of the sides abutting the surface. The confined volume is defined within the cavity within the cover. The sides, in an embodiment, are formed at least partially of a flexible skirt which forms a loose seal against the surface in operation. In an embodiment, the thickness of the cover is of relatively small magnitude so that the volume of water required to treat the area is relatively low. The water may form a layer over the portion of the surface being treated.

In an embodiment, the confinement arrangement is arranged to conform with the shape of the surface as it is moved over the surface. In one embodiment, where the confinement arrangement is in the form of a cover, the cover is flexible so that it can conform with, for example, a curved surface such as the hull of a water-going vessel. In one embodiment, the cover is made of a number of plates linked together so that they can move relative to each other so that overall the cover is flexible and able to conform with an uneven surface.

In accordance with a third aspect, the present invention provides an apparatus for treating marine growth on a surface, including a housing for mounting a heating means to enable heating of a portion of the surface, and a retaining means arranged to retain the housing proximate the surface, the housing arrangement being moveable over the surface to enable treatment of other portions of the surface.

In an embodiment, the heating means may include a heat exchanger. In an embodiment, the retaining means

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 7 -

retains the housing against the surface no matter what orientation of the surface, and in one embodiment is a magnet or magnets mounted to the housing.

- 5 In accordance with a fourth aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating marine growth on a surface, including the steps of utilising a heating arrangement to heat a portion of the surface, retaining the heating arrangement against the surface and moving the heating arrangement over the surface to treat other portions of the surface.

In an embodiment, the step of retaining is carried out utilising magnetism.

15 Brief Description of the Drawings

Features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of embodiments thereof, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view from the underside of an apparatus in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the embodiment of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the apparatus of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an end elevation of the embodiment of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a diagram illustrating application of the embodiment of Figure 1 in a method in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 8 -

Figure 6 is a view from the underside of a further embodiment of an apparatus in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 7 is a side elevation of the embodiment of
5 Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a further end elevation of the embodiment of Figure 6;

Figure 9 is a diagram showing application of an embodiment of an apparatus in accordance with the present invention, in a method in accordance with an embodiment of
10 the present invention; and

Figure 10 is a perspective view from above and one side of a further embodiment of an apparatus in accordance with the present invention.

15

Detailed Description of Embodiments

Figures 1 to 4 are views of an embodiment of an apparatus in accordance with the present invention. The apparatus, generally designated by reference numeral 1, is
20 in the form of a confinement arrangement 1 arranged to confine a volume of fluid adjacent to a portion of a surface to be treated for marine growth. In this example embodiment, the confinement arrangement 1 is in the form of a flexible cover 1, comprising sides 2 and a back 3
25 arranged to define a space 4 within the sides 2 and back 3 for confining the volume of fluid.

The confinement arrangement 1 includes a retaining means E which is arranged, in operation, to retain the
30 confinement arrangement (and therefore the confined volume) adjacent the surface being treated. In this embodiment, the retaining means are in the form of magnets E fixed to the underside of the cover 1. In this

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 9 -

embodiment the magnets E are fixed in between rollers B. The rollers B operate, together with sides 2 of the cover 1 to prevent the magnets from touching the surface to be treated. The magnets B will therefore be spaced by a distance from the surface to be treated, but their attractive force will still retain the cover 1 against the surface.

The apparatus 1 also includes entry ports I which enable introduction of a heated fluid into the space 4. In this embodiment, the heated fluid is conveyed to the entry ports I by an insulated hose (to be described later) from a source of heated fluid. The heated fluid may be any fluid which can conveniently be used and can be heated to a temperature sufficient to treat the marine growth. The fluid may be water or steam, for example.

The cover 1 is flexible to enable it to conform with variations in shape in the surface being treated.

In more detail, the cover 12 includes a plurality of rigid body components C which are linked together to form the back 3 of the mat and part of the sides 2. The components C may be of aluminium square sheeting or rigid or semi-rigid synthetic material eg plastics such as PerspexTM, NylonTM, TeflonTM or similar light weight materials. In this embodiment the components C are plate-like in form. A flexible hinge joint D runs X/Y across the back of the cover 1 in both directions from side to side and end to end. The joint may be a flexible material and in this embodiment is of nylon webbing (such as the material used in car seatbelts). Note that this type of flexible joint may alternatively be of a more rigid type of construction such as a door hinge type of joint. A soft neoprene flexible skirt A is formed around the perimeter of the cover 1. This flexible skirt A assists

- 10 -

in containing the heated fluid within the space 4 and also enables fluid to be exhausted into the surrounding environment as more fluid is provided via the entry ports I.

- 5 The components C which form the outer periphery of plates C of the cover 1 have tapered portions H at their outer edges which taper off at 20°-30° and form part of the sides 2 of the cover 1.

- 10 Rollers B are mounted by axles 5 which run through side plates 6 depending from mounting 7. Mounting 7 may be in the form of a body which is mounted for rotation in a gymbal fashion. This is indicated by arrows X in Figure 1. Because of the gymbal mounting platform 7, the cover 1 can be moved over the surface in any direction (ie
15 sideways, upwards, downwards etc).

- In an alternative embodiment, the rollers B may be fixedly mounted so that they are maintained in the same orientation. The cover 1 will then move in one direction. To move it in another direction the orientation of the
20 cover itself will need to be changed.

- An operation of cover 1 is illustrated in the Figure 5 diagram, the surface to be treated being the surface of a ship's hull 20. The rollers B contact the surface of the hull 20. Because of the gymballed
25 mountings 7, the cover 1 can be moved in any direction over the surface of the hull 20. The magnets E attractive force retains the rollers B and cover 1 against the surface. The magnets E are spaced from the surface a predetermined distance, but the attractive force of the
30 magnets is sufficient to retain the mat 1 to the surface. The magnets may be rare earth magnets.

 As illustrated in Figure 5, the cover 1 encloses a volume adjacent a portion 21 of a surface of the ship's

- 11 -

hull 20. The flexible side portions A of the cover 1 form a flexible seal against the surface portion 21. A hot water heater J on a service boat 22 supplies heated water via a flexible insulated hose K to inlet ports I. As
5 further hot water is supplied to the volume 4 excess hot water is evacuated via the flexible seals A into the water 23. Note that hot water need not be provided from a service boat. The heater may be mounted on the ship itself, or elsewhere.

10 Water is provided at a temperature of greater than 50°C and preferably greater than 60°C for a predetermined period in order to effectively kill any organic growth on the ship's hull 20 in the portion 21. Note that temperatures and rate of application may vary depending on
15 environmental conditions.

On an initial application, temperatures and rates of application of fluid may be varied until an ideal rate and temperature is selected.

The heated water heated by the heater J may be
20 environmental water 23 pumped into the heater J.

To treat other portions of the ship's hull 20 surface, the cover 1 is moved over the surface. Motion may be implemented by a diver pushing the cover 1 over the surface. Alternatively, an automated arrangement may be
25 implemented, including winches attached to the ship to "walk" the cover over the ship's hull.

An advantage of the arrangement of this embodiment is that the surface area of the mat to thickness of the mat volume ratio is quite high. The volume of water required
30 in the mat is therefore quite relatively low. This means that not a great deal of water may need to be used. In one embodiment, the space 4 inside the mat may be limited by inserting further plastics (or other material)

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 12 -

"fillers" attached to the plate 8, to limit the space 4 so that even lower volumes of water are utilised.

Advantageously, the thickness of the internal volume of the mat is limited and may be in the range of 2-50mm, or
5 2-15mm or even 2-10mm.

In the above embodiment, the water is an "open" system. That is, water is pumped by hose K and exhausted* into the environment via the flexible seal. In an alternative embodiment, water may be provided in a closed
10 system, where it is returned back to the heater J by a further hose (see later on in this description).

One of the advantages of the arrangement 1 of this embodiment is that when it is moved over the surface of the ship's hull 20 after treating the organic growth, it
15 does not significantly abrade the surface so that the organic growth, although dead, is substantially retained on the surface and is not dropped immediately into the surrounding environment. When the ship is underway, however, the marine growth eventually sheds from the
20 surface and into the environment, preferably when the ship is in the open sea, away from port.

As an alternative to utilising rare earth magnets E separate from the rollers B in the above embodiment, the magnets E may be dispensed with and the rollers B may
25 instead be of magnetic material.

In the above-described embodiment, the cover 1 is constructed from a series of plates C connected together by webbing D. In an alternative embodiment, the entire cover may be constructed from a firm and flexible
30 synthetic fabric to which the roller assemblies are fastened. As the fabric would be flexible it will conform with the surface as it is moved over the surface.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 13 -

Further, the roller assembly which is described in the above embodiment may be altered in other embodiments to a roller assembly more similar to that of a "shopping trolley" type roller assembly.

5 In the above embodiment, the components are selected so that the cover 1 when constructed has a substantially neutral buoyancy in water.

An alternative embodiment of an apparatus in accordance with the present invention is illustrated in
10 Figures 6 to 9. This embodiment is a confinement arrangement in the form of a cover 50 which is relatively rigid and includes a back 51 and sides 52. The cover 50 is formed from an aluminium frame 53. The aluminium frame 53 is covered in an outer neoprene sheet. The total
15 arrangement has substantially neutral buoyancy. Magnetic wheels 11, 12, 13 and 14 are fixed inside the mat. The magnets wheels 11, 12, 13, 14 retain the mat 50 in operation against the surface to be treated. Ports 55 allow for inlet and outlet of hot water (or any other
20 appropriate heated fluid). The sides 52 are formed from a outer side 56 and an inner neoprene flap 57, a gap 58 being formed between them which provides for some insulation.

In operation (see Figure 7) heated water is pumped in
25 via a hose 60 and one inlet 55 and exits the mat via hoses 61 and outlets 55. While there will be some loss of water, this arrangement is essentially "closed circuit".

Note also that this arrangement is more rigid and will not conform too well with any curved surfaces. It is
30 envisaged that this may be a relatively small scale arrangement that could be utilised for small uncurved surfaces or small boat hulls, such as yachts.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 14 -

Figure 8 shows application of the embodiment of Figures 5 to 7 to a small boat hull 200. The mat 50 in this embodiment is shown with multiple inlet, outlet ports 55. Again, the mat may be moved over the surface by using a diver, or by using automated means.

The closed circulation system shown in this embodiment may be used with the embodiment of Figures 1 to 5, and the open circulation system of Figures 1 to 5 may be used with the embodiment of Figures 6 to 9.

10 An apparatus in accordance with yet a further embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 10. In this embodiment, a confinement arrangement 300 is in the form of a synthetic fabric mat 300 which is substantially porous and includes pores
15 which form the confined volume. In operation, the map 300 is positioned adjacent a portion of a surface to heat the portion of the surface to treat marine growth on the surface. The mat 300 is mounted for motion over the surface.

20 In more detail, the mat 300 in this embodiment is formed as a conveyor belt mounted on a pair of rollers 301, 302 at either end of the belt 300. The bottom surface 303 of the belt 300 is in contact with the surface and forms the confined volume held against the surface and the top surface 304 is opposite the bottom surface 303, away from the surface being treated. Hot
25 water inlets 305 and 306 are provided in a side wall 307 of an aluminium frame 308 which mounts the arrangement. Portions of the aluminium frame 308 are joined by a hinge joint 309 and rubber tensioners 310, 311 operate to
30 tension the frame so that the belt 300 is tensioned by the rollers 301, 302.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 15 -

Roller 302 is a drive roller and is provided with a drive wheel 313, which may be electrically driven.

Roller 301 is an idler roller.

In operation, heated fluid (usually water) is pumped
5 into a cavity defined by the side wall 307 of the aluminium frame 308 of the rollers 301, 302. At least one side of this cavity (the side facing the surface to be treated) is open. Fluid from the cavity is taken up by the porous mat 300 to heat the surface being treated. As
10 the arrangement is moved over the surface, because the mat 300 is in the form of a conveyor, portions of the mat that were on the top surface 304 will be moved to the bottom surface 303 as the rollers 302, 301 drive the conveyor. This will enable the arrangement to move over
15 the surface whilst still maintaining the mat 300 against the surface to heat and treat the surface.

Note that instead of an electrically driven roller 313, the entire arrangement may be moved manually by a diver.

20 Heated fluid is exhausted from the cavity either by gaps in the sides of the cavity or via the porosity of the mat 300 and the conveying of the mat 300 about the rollers 301, 302.

Embodiments of the present invention have equal
25 application to marine growth both above and below the water line. For example, ships could be treated when they are in dry dock as well as being treated when they are in the water.

Further, embodiments of the present invention are not
30 limited to application on ships' hulls. They can be used for any surfaces which are subject to marine growth problems eg piers, oil rig piles, etc.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 16 -

A further embodiment may include a simple flexible mat with magnetic braid about its outer edges which can be fixed to the surface of the hull then moved and fixed to another portion of the surface, and into which inner
5 volume the heated fluid can be pumped.

In the above embodiments, the mats are retained by magnetic means. Other means may be used. For example, for smaller vessels, an aluminium rod could be utilised from a surface to manually hold the apparatus against the
10 hull. Electrically driven propellers (thrusters) situated on the back of the confinement arrangement may create a push force holding the apparatus against the surface to be treated (this is not limited to just small ships or boats). Another alternative is to provide water "jets"
15 expelling water from the back of the apparatus causing a thrust force against the surface being treated.

In the above embodiments, heat is supplied by way of a heated fluid provided to the cover arrangement. In an alternative embodiment, a heat exchanger may be mounted in
20 a housing which is retained to the surface and which may include castors or rollers to enable the arrangement to move over the surface. The retaining means may be magnets or other means for retaining to the surface.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made
25 to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered
30 in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 17 -

CLAIMS

1. A method of treating marine growth on a surface, including the steps of confining a volume adjacent a
5 portion of the surface, introducing a heated fluid into the volume to heat the marine growth and moving the confined volume over the surface to treat other portions of the surface..
- 10 2. A method in accordance with claim 1, including the further step of retaining the confined volume adjacent the surface.
3. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the
15 confined volume is retained adjacent the surface regardless of the orientation of the surface.
4. A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the step
of retaining the volume adjacent the surface is carried
20 out utilising magnetism.
5. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of exhausting heated fluid from the confined volume as further heated fluid is
25 introduced to the confined volume.
6. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the heated fluid is exhausted into the surrounding environment.
- 30 7. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, wherein the confined volume has a relatively small thickness depression.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 18 -

8. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of conforming the confined volume with the shape of the surface as the confined volume is moved over the surface.
9. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of varying the temperature of the heated fluid during treatment, whereby to determine the most effective temperature.
10. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of varying a rate of introduction of the heated fluid during treatment, whereby to determine the most effective rate.
11. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, wherein the surface is a surface of a hull of a water-going craft.
12. A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the treatment is carried out under the water line of the craft while the craft is in the water.
13. An apparatus for treating marine growth on a surface, including a confinement arrangement arranged to confine a volume adjacent a portion of the surface, the confinement arrangement being provided with an entry port arranged to enable introduction of a heated fluid to the volume, the confinement arrangement being movable over the surface to enable treatment of other portions of the surface.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 19 -

14. An apparatus in accordance with claim 13, the confinement arrangement further including a retaining means which is arranged to retain the confinement arrangement approximate the surface so that the volume
5 remains adjacent the surface.
15. An apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein the retaining means includes one or more magnets mounted to the confinement arrangement.
- 10 16. An apparatus in accordance with claim, 13, 14 or 15, the confinement arrangement further including an exhaust means enabling heated fluid that is being introduced into the volume to be exhausted from the volume.
- 15 17. An apparatus in accordance with claim 16, the exhaust means including a flexible seal which borders the confinement arrangement.
- 20 18. An apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the confinement arrangement is arranged to conform with the shape of the surface as it is moved over the surface.
- 25 19. An apparatus in accordance with claim 18, wherein the confinement arrangement comprises a flexible cover.
20. An arrangement in accordance with claim 19, wherein the flexible cover comprises a number of relatively rigid
30 components linked together so that they can move relative to each other to facilitate flexibility of the cover.
- 21.

WO 2005/056382

PCT/AU2004/001642

- 20 -

21. An apparatus for treating marine growth on a surface, including a housing for mounting a heating means to enable heating of a portion of the surface, and a retaining means arranged to retain the housing proximate the surface, the
5 housing arrangement being moveable over the surface to enable treatment of other portions of the surface.

22. A method of treating marine growth on a surface, including the steps of utilising a heating arrangement to
10 heat a portion of the surface, retaining the heating arrangement against the surface and moving the heating arrangement over the surface to treat other portions of the surface.

1/5

110

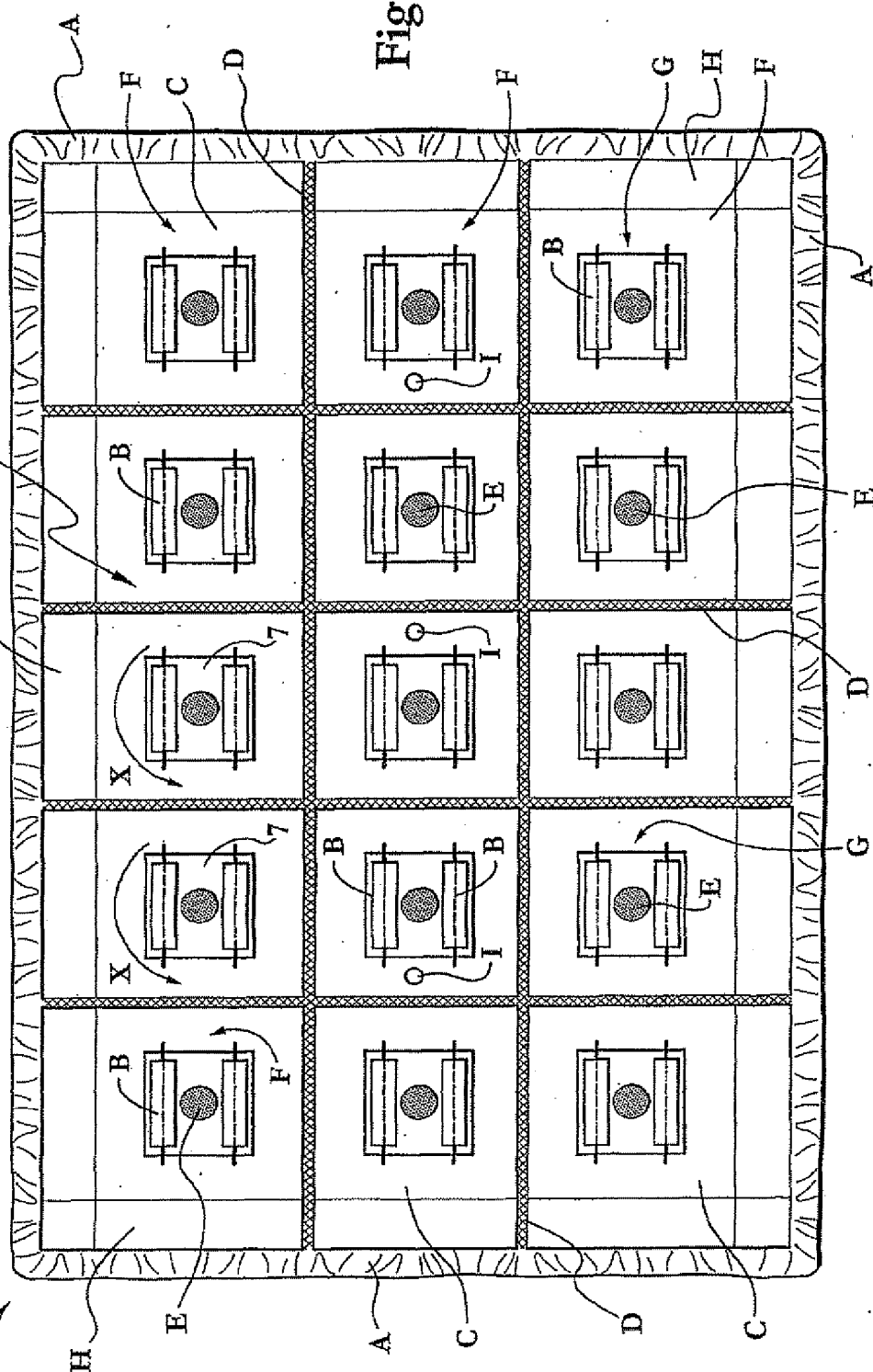
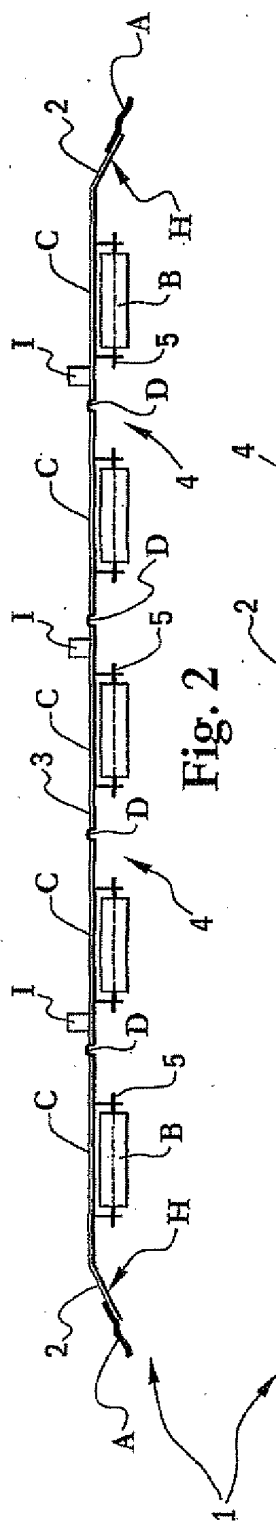
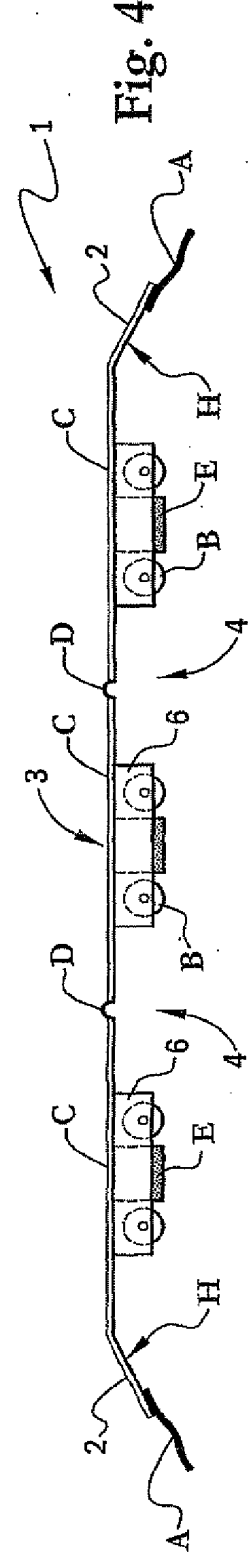
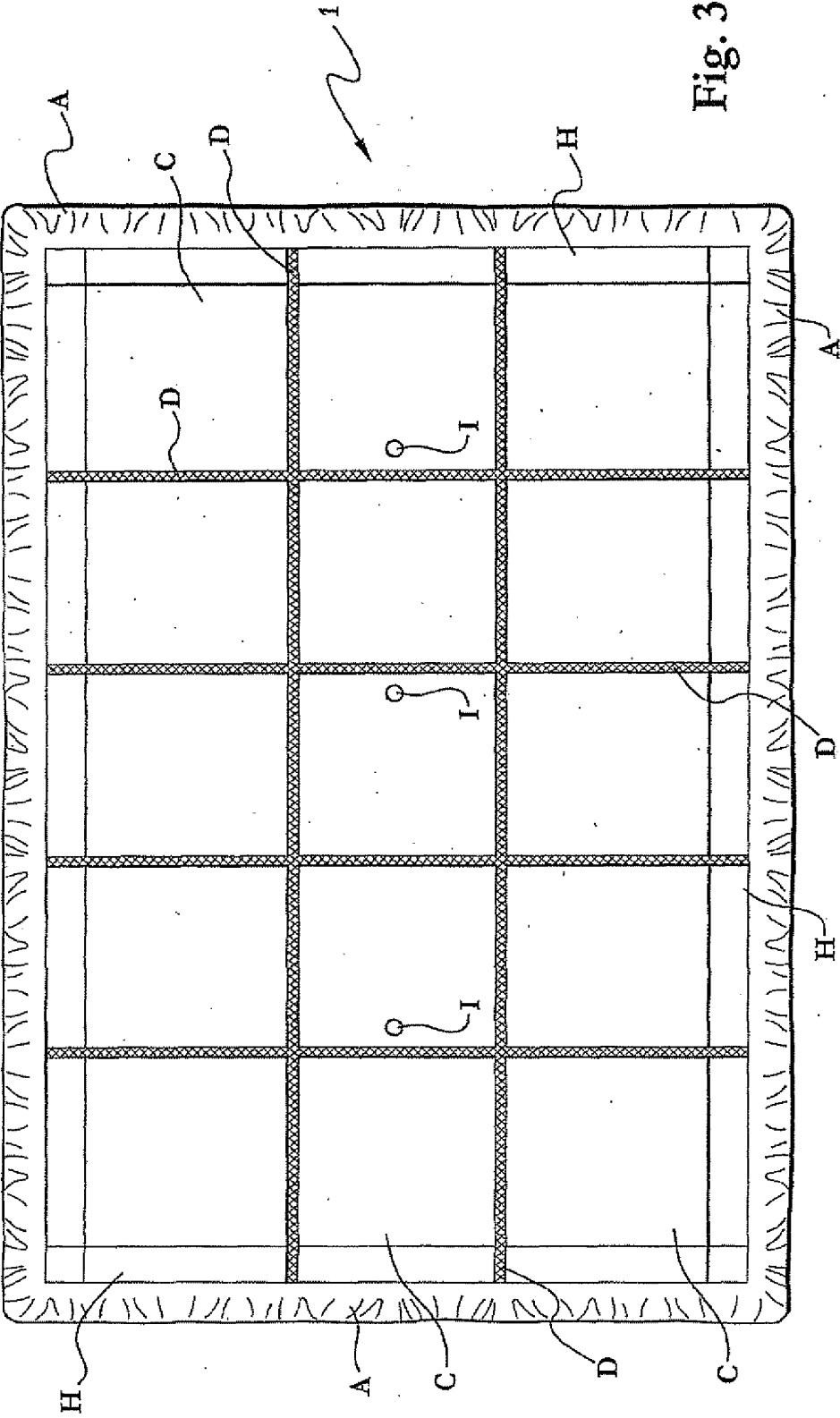
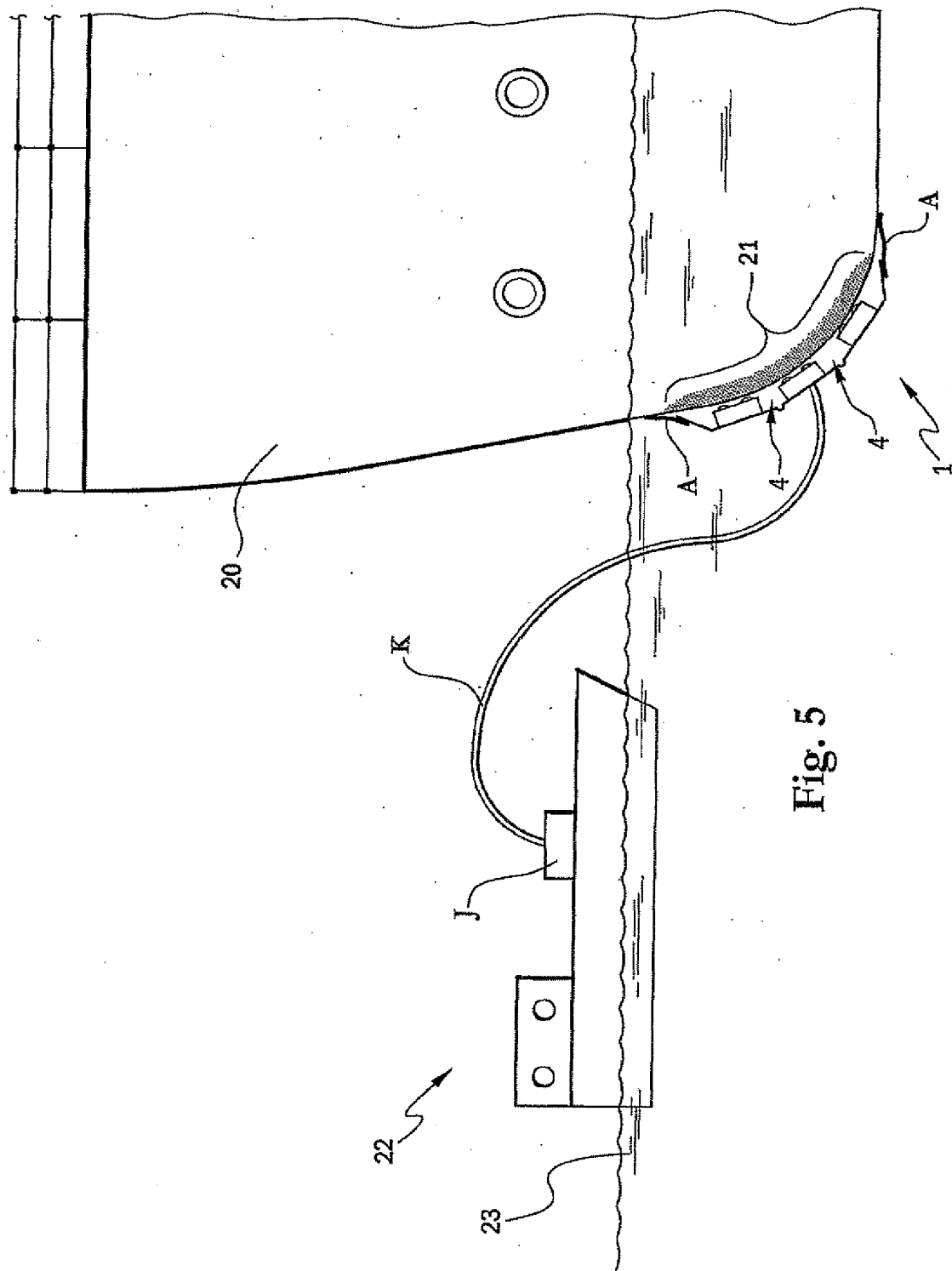


Fig. 2





3/5



4/5

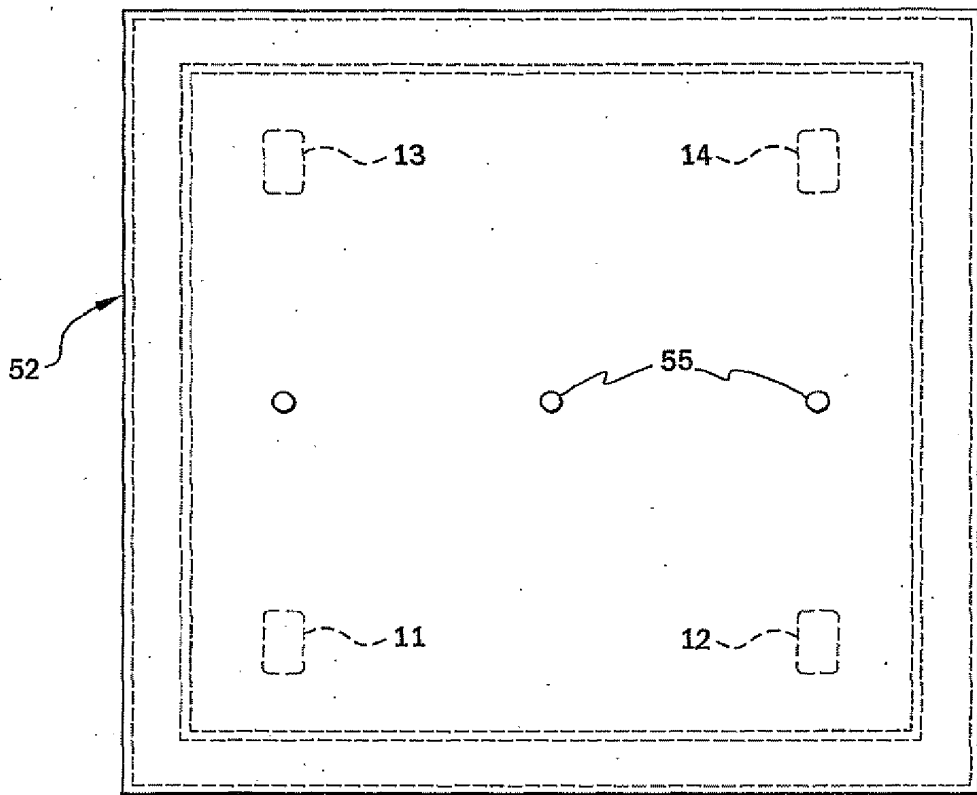


Fig. 6

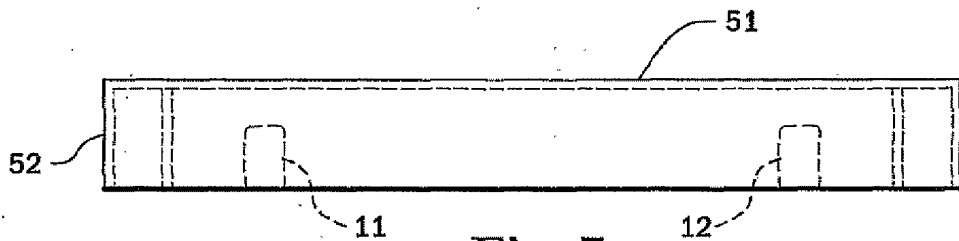


Fig. 7

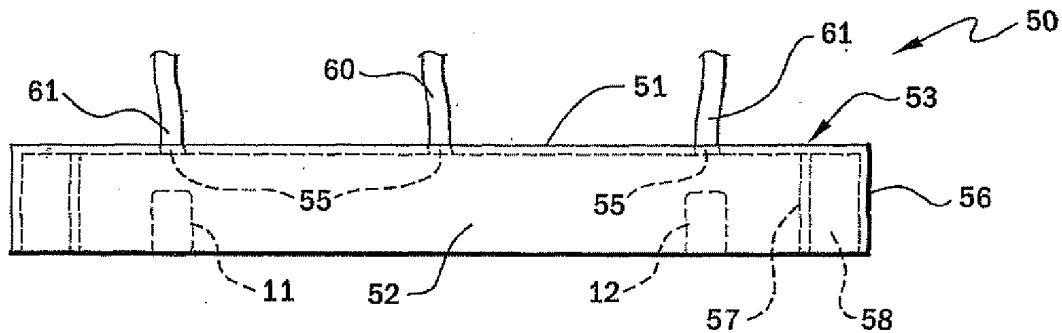


Fig. 8

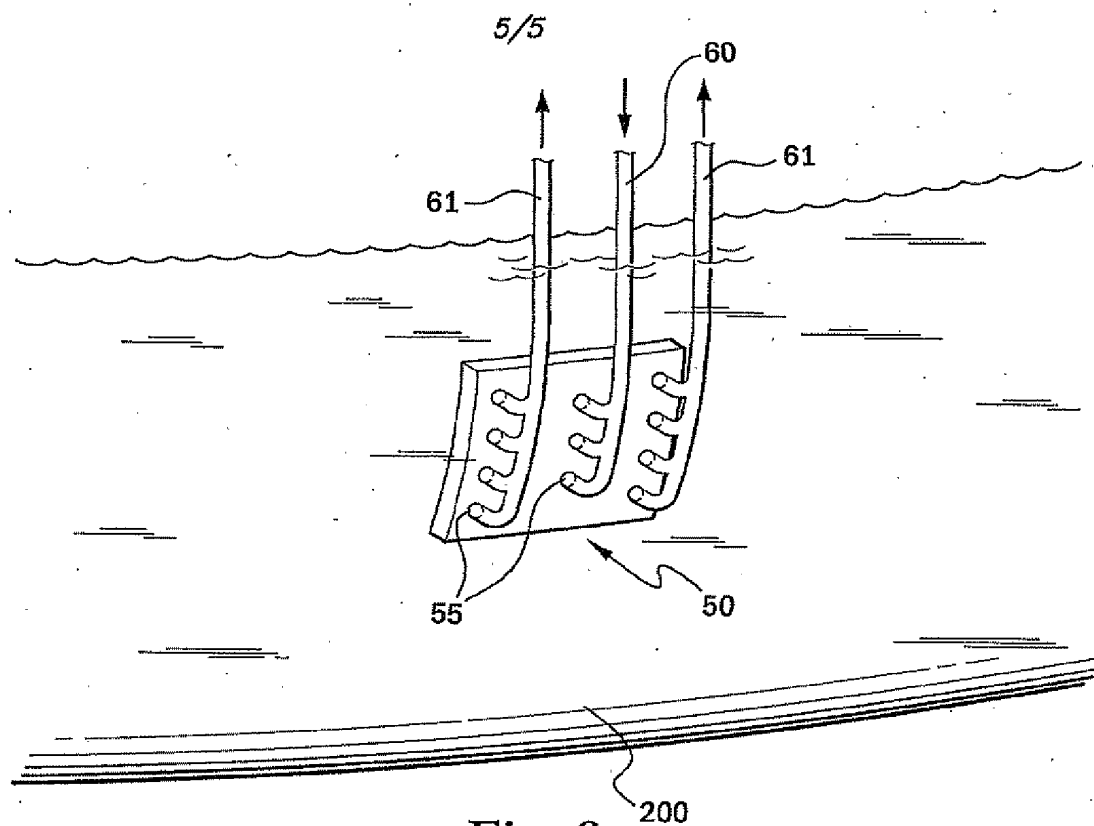


Fig. 9

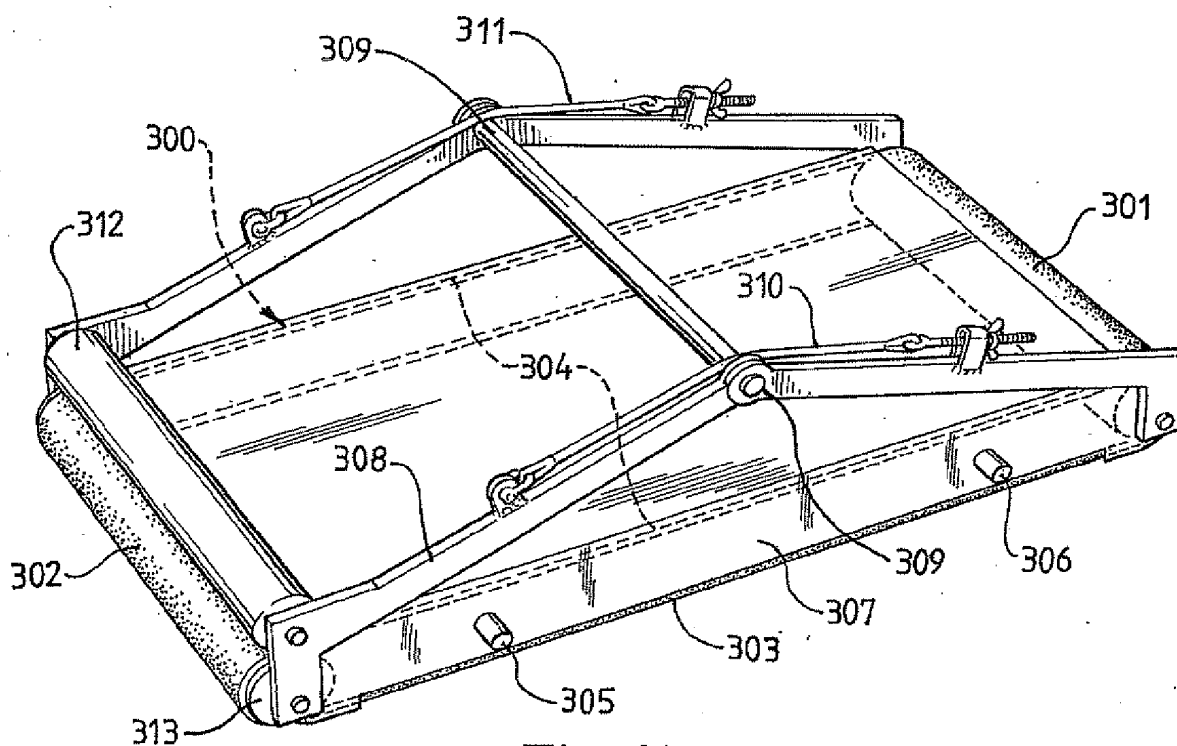


Fig. 10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001642

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. ⁷: B63B 59/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
DWPI IPC B63B 59/, E04H 4/16, B08B 17/00, A01M 21/00, 21/04, 19/ and keywords: heat, hot etc.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5389266 A (CLUM et al) 14 February 1995 Column 3, line 56-column 4, line 31; col. 5, lines 51-52 and figs. 1, 2, 5-10	1-3, 5, 7-10, 13, 14, 16-19, 21, 22
Y		4, 11, 12, 15, 20
Y	GB 1545232 A (LARSON) 2 May 1979 Page 2, lines 49-66; page 3, lines 33-36	4, 11, 12, 15, 20
Y	WO 2000/068070 A1 (MASON) 16 November 2000 Abstract	4, 11, 12, 15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C



See patent family annex

* "A"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"B"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search
15 February 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 FEB 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au
Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929

Authorized officer

SYLVAIN DESCHANEL
Telephone No : (02) 6283 2368

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001642

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2002/044020 A1 (TIBLE) 6 June 2002 Abstract; page 1, lines 11-14; page 5, lines 33-34	1-3, 5-14, 16, 18, 21, 22
X	FR 2700240 A1 (IVALDI) 13 July 1994 Abstract and figs. 1-2	1-3, 5-10, 13, 14, 16-19, 21, 22
X	FR 2705531 A1 (SEAS) 2 December 1994 Abstract; page 5, lines 8-11, 35-38 and fig. 2	1-3, 5-10, 13, 14, 16-19, 21, 22
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 96-336460/34, Class P13 P14, JP 08154559 A (ASAHI KASEI KOGYO KK) 18 June 1996	1-3, 5-10, 13, 14, 16-19, 21, 22
A	US 5593636 A (PUTZ) 14 January 1997	
A	US 5327848 A (HANNON) 12 July 1994	
A	FR 2767643 A1 (CHARRIN) 5 March 1999	
A	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 91-093208/13, Class Q24, SU 1581649 A (SEVAST EQUIPT INST) 30 July 1990	
A	Patent Abstract of Japan, JP 2001-231431 A (SUMITOMO HEAVY IND LTD) 28 August 2001	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001642

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
US	5389266	US	5294351		
GB	1545232	DE	2647070	DK	471076
		FR	2328521	BE	847452
		NL	7611488	NO	763559
		SE	7511712	ES	452526
WO	0068070	AU	47861/00	JP	52053394
		US	6488572	PT	65725
WO	0244020	BR	0010351	EP	1187759
		AU	22068/02	FR	2817230
		HR	20030434	NO	20032454
		US	2004074431	US	6840187
FR	2700240				
FR	2705531				
US	5327848				
US	5593636				
FR	2767643	FR	2767644		

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

END OF ANNEX